

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An expandable cage for an embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, the cage comprising:

a circumferential member adapted to move between an unexpanded position and an expanded position, the circumferential member including a first bending region and a second bending region formed therein;

a proximal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member at the first bending region and a second end which is positioned substantially near a longitudinal axis extending through the center of the circumferential member when the circumferential member is in the expanded position; and

a distal strut attached to the circumferential member at the second bending region, wherein the distal strut has a free end which is positioned substantially near the longitudinal axis extending through the center of the circumferential member when the circumferential member is in the expanded position.

2. (Original) The cage of claim 1, wherein the expandable cage is adapted to be rotatably mounted on an elongated member.

3. (Original) The cage of claim 1, wherein the circumferential member is made from a self-expanding material.

4. (Original) The cage of claim 1, wherein the circumferential member has a substantially oval shape when placed in the expanded position.

5. (Previously Presented) The cage of claim 1, wherein the second end of the proximal strut is mountable to an elongated member.

6. (Original) The cage of claim 5, wherein the distal strut has a free end which is connectable to an obturator.

7. (Original) The cage of claim 6, wherein the proximal strut and the distal strut are formed as one piece with the circumferential member.

8. (Previously Presented) The cage of claim 1, wherein the proximal strut is adapted to be fixedly attached to an elongated member.

9 - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage including a circumferential member having a first bending region and a second bending region formed therein to allow the cage to move between an unexpanded position and an expanded position, the circumferential member forming a substantially oval shaped inlet opening for the filtering element when placed in the expanded position, the cage including a proximal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member at the first bending region and a second end coupled to the guide wire and a distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member at the second bending region and a second end coupled to the guide wire, wherein the first bending region is located proximal to the second bending region to allow the circumferential member to be positioned at a slant with respect to the body vessel when placed in the expanded position and the guide wire extends through the substantially oval shaped inlet opening of the circumferential member.

30. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, wherein the cage is rotatably mounted on the guide wire.

31. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, further including at least one additional distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire.

32. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, further including a plurality of distal struts each having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire.

33. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, wherein the proximal strut and the distal strut maintain the guide wire substantially centered in the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

34. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 33, wherein the first bending region is disposed approximated 180 degrees apart from the second bending region on the circumferential member.

35. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, wherein the distal strut is slidable coupled to the guide wire.

36. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, wherein the guide wire extends through the inlet opening of the circumferential member.

37. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between an unexpanded and expanded position, the cage including a circumferential member which forms an inlet opening for the filtering element when placed in the expanded position, the guide wire extending through the inlet opening of the circumferential member and the circumferential

member being positioned at a slant with respect to the body vessel when placed in the expanded position; and

means for maintaining the guide wire substantially centered through the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

38. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 36, wherein the cage is rotatably mounted on the guide wire.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) The cage of claim [39] 1, further including a second distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a free end which is positioned substantially near the longitudinal axis extending through the center of the circumferential member.

41. (Previously Presented) The cage of claim 40, further including a third distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a free end which is positioned substantially near the longitudinal axis extending through the center of the circumferential member.

42. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between an unexpanded and expanded position, the cage including a circumferential member which forms an inlet opening for the filtering element when placed in the expanded position, a proximal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire, the proximal strut being configured to maintain the guide wire substantially centered through the inlet opening of the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

43. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to be positioned at a slant with respect to the body vessel when placed in the expanded position.

44. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the cage is rotatably mounted to the guide wire.

45. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, further including a distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire.

46. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, further including a plurality of distal struts each having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire

47. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 45, wherein the proximal strut and the distal strut maintain the guide wire substantially centered in the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

48. (New) The cage of claim 1, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.

49. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 29, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.

50. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 37, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.

51. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.